

MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Mike Kehoe
Governor

Kurt U. Schaefer
Director

February 23, 2026

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CENTER
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

TO: ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS

In accordance with procedures for environmental review found at 10 CSR 60-13.030, a review has been performed on the proposed action below:

Project Identification: Drinking Water System Distribution Improvements

Applicant: Tri-County Water Authority

Project No: DW291181-05

City: Independence

County: Jackson

State: Missouri

Estimated Project Amount: \$15,000,000

Potential State Revolving Fund (SRF) Amount: \$15,000,000

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION:

Location: The Tri-County Water Authority (TCWA) is located in northwestern Missouri in Jackson, Cass, and Bates counties. The project is located near the City of Blue Springs, which is located approximately 19 miles east of Kansas City.

Population, Present and Projected, and Design Year: The Tri-County Water Authority serves wholesale drinking water to 15 primary customers. Ten of those customers use TCWA as their sole source of water. The other 5 customers use TCWA to satisfy a portion of their populations demands. TCWA establishes maximum demand contracts with its customers. As of 2022, the total maximum demands established with TWCA's customers is 12.36 million gallons per day (mgd). Twenty-year growth forecasts approximate maximum daily water demand of 21.94 mgd.

Current Methods of Supply, Storage, Water Treatment, and Distribution: The TCWA water system includes a lime-softening water treatment plant that draws its raw water from the well field located next to the Missouri River in northern Jackson County. The water treatment plant consists of 6 aerators, 5 contact basins, 4 re-carbonation basins, 12 filter cells, and 7 high service pumps. The treatment plant has multiple trains for redundancy and a firm capacity of 20.5 mgd. The system has 6 ground storage tanks and 2 elevated water storage tanks with a total storage capacity of 13.37 million gallons. The TWCA has 6 booster pump stations and 18 connections to other systems.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Distribution Improvements: The project will consist of an interconnection facility between TWCA, the City of Blue Springs, and Jackson County Public Water Supply District (PWSD) No. 13.

Purpose and Need: The purpose of the project is to make the necessary improvements to enable to TCWA to operate a water system that meets drinking water quality standards and provide reliable water service to its customers. The improvements are proposed to increase system reliability and redundancy to provide water to TWCA's customers as TWCA continues to grow and approach full utilization of its capacity.

Design Factors: Work will be performed in right-of-ways, easements, and on property owned by the water system. Construction activity will consist of boring, trenching, digging, and movement of machinery over the surface. The design standards used in this project are based on the 2013 Minimum Design Standards for Missouri Community Water Systems.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

- No Action (Not Selected): This alternative would require the authority to continue to operate and maintain the existing system to provide water service to its customers. This alternative would not address the system increased demand or reliability.
- Action Alternative No. 1 (Selected): This action will add an interconnect facility between TWCA, the City of Blue Springs, and Jackson PWSD No. 13 that will allow TWCA to supply water to either of the other two entities.

REASONS FOR SELECTION OF PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES

Selected Actions: Action Alternative No. 1 was selected over the other alternatives as it provides the most feasible and cost-effective solution to provide adequate water and provide redundancy within the system. The location was selected as it is the only area where the infrastructure of all three entities overlap.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SUMMARY:

1. Primary Impacts

- a. Construction: Blowing dust, temporary surface disruption, and noise from construction equipment will occur during construction, but these impacts are expected to be minor and temporary in nature.
- b. Environmental: Environmental impacts of the project are expected to be temporary in nature. The proposed improvements will allow the water system to operate more efficiently and provide safe and reliable drinking water to the authority's customers for the next 20 years.
- c. Financial: The current customer charge for drinking water is \$23.22 per 1,000 gallons. The proposed project is expected to change the debt service proportionally to the expected benefit of the project. The current coverage on the debt service is charged monthly to each customer as 10 percent. This is expected to increase to 15 percent.

2. Secondary:

- a. Population Impacts: This project is designed to serve the existing water system. No relocation of people or structures is anticipated.
 - b. Land Use and Trends: No significant change in land use trends is expected to result from this project.
 - c. Environmental: No significant secondary environmental impacts are expected as a result of this project.
3. Mitigation Measures Necessary to Eliminate Adverse Environmental Effects: Noise, dust, and erosion normally associated with construction will be minimized by good engineering and construction practices. Restoration of disturbed areas along the water mains will be undertaken after construction is complete. Any debris such as demolition and construction waste, trees, or brush, will be disposed of properly.
4. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources: Fuel, chemicals, and construction materials will be irretrievably committed to the project. Future funds will be committed to the operation and maintenance of the water system.
5. Positive Environmental Effects to be Realized from the Proposed Project: The proposed improvements to the system will help provide better water quality, improve operations, increase redundancy, extend the system's life cycle, and provide more reliability throughout the system.
6. Reasons for Concluding there will be No Significant Impact: The proposed project will have a positive impact on water quality and reliability. Population densities and land use trends will not be significantly affected. Where minor impacts occur, appropriate mitigation measures are planned.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

1. Public Involvement: The authority conducted a public meeting to discuss the proposed project improvements, the engineering alternatives, and environmental impacts of the project on October 30, 2025, Grain Valley City Hall, 711 Main Street, Grain Valley, MO 64029. Notice of the meeting appeared September 27, 2025, in the Independence Examiner.
2. Public Opposition or Opinions: No adverse comments on the proposed project were received.

COORDINATION AND DOCUMENTATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS:

1. Facility Plan:
 - Tri County Water Authority System Resiliency Improvements Facility Plan dated February 9, 2022, prepared by HDR, Inc. and amended November 28, 2023.
 - Environmental Information Document dated October 2025, prepared by HDR, Inc.
2. Federal: ☒ U.S.F.W.S. ☒ Corps of Engineers

3. State:

Environmental Notices

- a. Missouri Department of Natural Resources – Division of State Parks
- b. Missouri Department of Natural Resources – Missouri Geological Survey
- c. Missouri Office of Administration – Federal Assistance Clearinghouse
- d. Missouri Department of Conservation

Historical and Cultural Notices

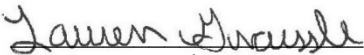
- a. Missouri Department of Natural Resources – State Historic Preservation Office
- b. Native American Tribes

4. Consulting Engineer: HDR, Inc.
10450 Holms Road, Suite 600
Kansas City, MO 64131-3471

This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of the facility plan on file in the office of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Financial Assistance Center at 1101 Riverside Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65101. These are available for public review upon request Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This agency will not take any administrative action on this project for at least 30 calendar days from the date of this document. Persons wishing to comment on the above environmental decision may submit comments to Lauren Graessle, P.E., of the Department of Natural Resources, Financial Assistance Center, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176, during this period. Thank you.

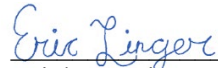
Sincerely,

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CENTER


Lauren Graessle, P.E.
Director

LG:elb

Attachments


Erickson Linger
Associate Engineer

February 23, 2026
Date

DISTRIBUTION

Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Conservation Federation of Missouri
728 West Main Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
c/o Ann D'Alfonso – WWPD/SRFB
dalfonso.ann@epamail.epa.gov

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Missouri Geological Survey
Environmental Geology Section
P.O. Box 250
Rolla, MO 65402-0250

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Division of State Parks
State Historic Preservation Office
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
john_s_weber@fws.gov

National Park Service
Midwest Region
mwro_compliance@nps.gov

USDA Rural Development
601 Business Loop 70 West
235 Parkade Center
Columbia, MO 65203

Gilmore and Bell, P.C.
c/o Shannon Walsh Creighton
One Metropolitan Square
211 North Broadway, Suite 2000
St. Louis, MO 63102-2741

Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office
627 Grandview
Pawhuska, OK 74056

SRF File DW291181-05

Tri-County Water Authority
c/o John Overstreet
General Manager
28405 East Blue Valley Road
Independence, MO 64058

HDR, Inc.
c/o Kyle Sims, P.E.
10450 Holms Road, Suite 600
Kansas City, MO 64131-3471

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Kansas City Regional Office
200 Unity Circle North, Suite 2A
Lee's Summit, MO 64086-6018

The Independence Examiner
12012 East U.S. 40, Suite B
Independence, MO 64050

Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Federal Activities
Ariel Rios (2252A)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Council of Environmental Quality
722 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, DC 20503

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District
Kansas City Regulatory Office
regulatory.missouristate@usace.army.mil

Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105

Lewis, Rice
c/o David Brown
600 Washington Avenue, Suite 2500
St. Louis, MO 63102

Attached Maps

1. State Map/Project Location Map
2. Project Location Map

State of Missouri

Tri-County Water Authority





PLAN



MISSOURI CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY #A26058
10453 HOLMES ROAD, SUITE 600
KANSAS CITY, MO 64121
816-386-2700

			PROJECT NUMBER K-1061
ISSUE	DATE	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT NUMBER K-1061



Tri-County
WATER AUTHORITY
**SYSTEM RESILIENCY
IMPROVEMENTS**

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FILE NAME: R:\CIVIL_52.dwg

SCALE: AS NOTED

FIGURE 2